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ancient portion of the town. This portion has remained substantially unchanged since the colonial period; and along with its antique houses, streets, alleys and docks, there remain the remnants of old families, many local names and traditions, and this historic survivor of the observance of the Gunpowder Plot. But it will not apparently survive much longer in Portsmouth. Every year the interest grows less and less and the boys who take part in it fewer and of a younger age.

The same may be said of New Castle, where even the name, *Pope Night*, has become confounded and the whole meaning of the celebration obliterated. It sufficiently attests the easy loss of the primitive significance of customs and observances and the complete transformation of their names, to note that in this obscure village the name *Pope Night* has undergone the absurd change to *Pork Night*.

John Albee.

CHILD AND SNAKE. — The legend of which French and American forms are given in the *Journal* (vol. v. p. 169) exists also in India. Sir Edwin Arnold, in "India Revisited," gives the story as related to him by a Hindu of his own child, whom he one day saw sharing her milk with a large cobra, and pushing his head out of the bowl when she wished to take her turn.

SIGN OF THE CROSS MADE TO AVERT ILL-LUCK. — To the query made in the same number, why the making of the cross on the ground averts ill-luck, the following answer is suggested: May it not confuse, or send a counter-current across the evil influence? As Mr. Leland tells us in "Gipsy Sorcery," complications of tracery in ornamentation were supposed to have that effect. So in mesmerizing, cross passes break up the condition which direct passes have induced. Perhaps the origin of crossing one's self was to block the way, so to speak, of a stream of ill-will poured from adverse powers, in or out of the flesh.

Louise Kennedy.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOLK-LORE OF NEW ENGLAND. — The following items may be added to those included in a previous article (vol. iv. p. 253).

BURNING OF AN AMPUTATED LIMB. — I recently assisted in the amputation of the foot of a man who had had it crushed on a freight-train. After the operation, the friends questioned what should be done with the amputated foot; one promptly decided the matter, by saying that it should be burned, and not buried, in order that the stump should not always continue to be painful, and the man troubled by disagreeable sensations, as would surely follow if the foot were put into the ground. It was accordingly cremated.

PRESERVATION OF HUMAN FLESH. — In Grafton County, New Hampshire, in the beginning of the present century, a boy was scalded so badly that a portion of skin sloughed off, fully one inch in diameter. The boy's mother preserved the section of skin in a dried state as long as she lived, which was over thirty years. She kept it very choicely among her valuable trinkets. When the boy became of age he picked up his clothes and started off to begin life for himself. The parents never heard of him